

LA 60-9901

31 DEC 1960

STAT

Mr. Harold Russell  
National Commander  
AMVETS  
1710 Rhode Island Ave., N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Russell:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, and with it the account of your Veterans Day address, in which you urge fuller public understanding of the menaces and challenges of Soviet communism. I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in writing me about a subject which commands the interest of both of us.

With every good wish to you and your organization for a successful year ahead.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT

ODCI/[ ]/nhh (30 December 1960)

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## AMVETS

*1710 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.*

cc-9904

December 21, 1960

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I was indeed most interested in reading the reprint of one of your recent speeches concerning the Communist menace.

During our National Convention which was held in Miami Beach, Florida, August 22-27, 1960, we conducted a forum on America's National Purpose. The panelists for this forum included Lt. Gen. Arthur G. Trudeau, army chief of research and development; Secretary of Health Education and Welfare Arthur S. Flemming; Florida Congressman Dante B. Fascell; political scientist Hans Morgenthau of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N.J., and Dr. Henry C. Wallich of the President's Council of Economic Advisers and National Goals Commission, and one of the conclusions which was reached was that America must know her advisery.

On Veterans Day of this year I delivered an address in Louisville, Kentucky, and I am taking the liberty of enclosing a press report on it as the substance of our respective speeches are very similar. I have not as yet received a formal reply from President-elect Kennedy concerning the suggestion that a White House Conference be convoked to focus attention on this vital problem, but I understand from his associates that the proposal is being considered.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harold Russell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "H" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Harold Russell  
National Commander

DEC 28 REC'D

AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II and Korea

## NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE AT 12 NOON, FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 1960

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Nov. 11) -- National Commander Harold Russell of AMVETS revealed today in a major Veterans Day address here that he has asked President-elect John F. Kennedy to convoke a White House Conference on the Anatomy of Communism "to lay bare the bones of Soviet strategies and tactics ... and to sharpen American awareness of basic Cold War issues."

"By bringing together many leaders of American thought," the famed veterans' leader said, "a tremendous contribution could be made to a complete diagnosis and more meaningful understanding at home of Communist efforts and how to combat them."

Citing the success of such enterprises as the White House Conference on Education, Commander Russell maintained that similar White House initiative could "point up practical application of the lessons of history -- particularly the recent lessons we have learned from the shenanigans of the Soviet bloc at the UN."

As examples, the AMVET leader said that in terms of immediate need, we must:

Educate ourselves to radical new understanding of the basic fact that the rest of the world is not created in the image of America and we cannot expect other people to react automatically as we do.

Develop a whole new perspective and comprehension of the effective and proper use of terms such as "negotiation," "discussion," and "co-existence" in their Communist meanings if we are ever going to know what they are really saying to us and where we stand.

Realize that just standing on our dignity in this struggle while others are not is no answer at all.

Understand that more foresight, more preparation, more planning and public awareness are vital to our success at every level of policy-making.

Commander Russell listed the "staggering series" of Soviet thrusts and barries of the past six months which, he said, have been attributed by the Red leaders to the ill-fated U-2 flight last May. "But," he said, "the spy-plane issue -- as the Russians have used it -- is a phony issue.

"As a result of the suspension of those flights," he added, "America today is smack in the middle of an intelligence gap -- and we are likely to remain in that limbo until our spy satellites are operational."

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He called for acceleration of the whole space program, asserting that "If the 1-2 incident, the collapse of the summit and the Russian antics at the UN have taught us nothing else, they have surely revealed the folly of stinting on appropriations for space technology."

"Spying may not be nice," he said, "but remove the danger of surprise attack and you pull the fangs of those benton world conquest."

Commander Russell also said that "Americans could take little comfort from the slim margin of victories of the West on UN votes during the Khrushchev visit."

"The free world's margins on such issues as admission of Red China, on moral judgments over Hungary and Tibet, on disarmament, all add up to a record of declining majorities for the West, of growing pro-Soviet votes and of doubled, tripled and quintupled totals of abstention."

He said this "growing mass of indecision" not only now holds the balance of power in the UN but also "betrays a sense of insecurity and uneasiness" among new and neutral nations which are "not as devoted to Anglo-Saxon standards of personal behavior" as is the West.

On the basis of such problems, he said, AMVETS have sent the following telegram to President-elect Kennedy:

"AMVETS URGENTLY SUGGEST YOU CONVENE AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY NEXT YEAR FIRST WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON ANATOMY OF COMMUNISM BRINGING TOGETHER LEADERS IN ALL FIELDS THROUGHOUT NATION TO HELP SHARPEN AMERICAN AWARENESS AND COMPREHENSION OF BASIC COLD WAR ISSUES AND TO LAY BARE THE BONES OF SOVIET STRATEGIES, TACTICS AND OBJECTIVES STOP

"WE BELIEVE MASSIVE EFFORT REQUIRED TO DEFINE THE REAL COMMUNIST MEANING OF SUCH CONCEPTS AS CO-EXISTENCE, NEGOTIATION, DISCUSSION AND FREEDOM STOP

"WE BELIEVE MORE AMERICANS MUST RECOGNIZE THE WIDE GAP BETWEEN OUR REACTION TO WORLD EVENTS AND THOSE OF OUR FRIENDS AND NEUTRALS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD STOP

"CONFERNECE SHOULD ALSO SEEK BROADER BASE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR INCREASED PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND COULD HELP RE-DEDICATE AMERICA TO NEED FOR MOVING FORWARD IN PURSUIT OF WORLD PEACE WITH FREEDOM STOP

"AMVETS PLEDGE FULL CO-OPERATION OF OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS IN CONVICTION THAT SIMILAR WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVES IN PAST TOWARD SOLUTION OF OTHER PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN LIFE HAVE PROVED VALUE AND WISDOM OF BRINGING ISSUES TO FOCUS THROUGH SUCH CONFERENCES STOP

"CONGRATULATIONS ON ELECTION AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR ADMINISTRATION."

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WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM  
UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

NAME AND ADDRESS		INITIALS	DATE
Col. Grogan			DEC 28 1960
3			
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ACTION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
CONCURRENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

For your information and preparation of an appropriate reply for the Director's signature.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

NAME AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Asst. to the DCI	12/27/60

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